

**Syllabus for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and Reading**  
**2013-2014**  
**Mrs. Hyde**

First of all, I want to welcome you to my classroom this year. I look forward to getting to know you and share in our learning experiences together. Please read the following syllabus with your parents. Tear off the last page of this syllabus and have your parent sign. Return the signed page by tomorrow for a special reward.

**All About Me**

- Born and raised in Beaumont
- My birthday is October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Graduate of Hardin-Jefferson High School
- Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from the University of Houston
- I have two sons: Jamison (7) and Finn (almost 4)
- This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> year to teach and my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Henderson.
- My favorite movie is *Thelma and Louise*.
- My favorite book is *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath.
- My favorite children's book is *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems.
- In my spare time I like to spend time with my boys, organize, and read.

**My Class Rules**

- 1. Be on Time
- 2. Be on Task
- 3. Allow Others to Learn by Controlling Your Own Impulses
- 4. Be Ready with Supplies
- 5. Be Attentive
- 6. Be a Positive Influence
- 7. Do Your Best
- 8. Be an Honest Person
- 9. Be Respectful of Property and Personal Space
- 10. Be Ladies and Gentlemen- Use Manners
- 11. Treat Others as You Would Want to Be Treated
- 12. Respect Differences

**My Pet Peeves**

- Grooming while in class (brushing your hair or putting on make-up)
- Having food or drinks in the classroom that I did not give you
- Behavior that is not gentleman-like or lady-like
- Sleeping or having your head down
- Not having school supplies and/or destroying school supplies
- Stealing or any dishonest behavior
- Staying late in the class before mine to finish stuff. DO NOT BE LATE TO MY CLASS! If you are late, you will miss the warm-up, which comes together as a major grade every nine weeks.

**Cell Phone/ Electronic Device Policy**

- Cell Phones are not allowed to be used in the classroom.
- Definitions of cell phone use:
  - Texting (anyone, including your mom)
  - Talking
  - Ringing
  - Vibrating
  - "Looking at the time"

- Playing games

-iPads are allowed in my classroom at all times except when you lose your privilege by using it to do something not pertaining to class.

#### **Cell Phone Policy continued...**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- hand over cell phone to me sweetly and you can pick it up from me after class.  
\* If you refuse to hand it to me, then it becomes an office issue, as you are being insubordinate, and you can suffer the consequences in the office.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- hand over cell phone to me sweetly and you can pick it up from me after school.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- hand over cell phone to me sweetly and you can pick it up after you spend 10 minutes in tutorials cleaning something. Time is added to this after each following offense.

#### **Procedures and Expectations**

A general day in Mrs. Hyde's classroom:

- Warm-up / Vocabulary(5-8 minutes)
- Lesson (30-45 minutes)
- Student Activity (Around 45 minutes)
- Clean Up (1-2 minutes)

Coming In and Getting Started

- Look at your daily supplies list posted above student supply area.
- Please come in and gather the supplies listed.
- Sit down in your assigned seat.
- Look on the board and there will be a warm-up or a vocabulary activity for you to do. You will do this in your composition notebook. You will only have about 5-8 minutes for the assignment. When the timer goes off, it is due.

The End of Class

- If I remember, I will give you about 2 minutes to put your supplies away and clean up your work area.
- When putting your supplies away, make sure all books, texts, and envelopes are placed neatly in your assigned area. Please place supplies where they actually belong.
- Look around your work area. Is there trash on the floor? Clean it up. Can you help anyone else in your area clean up? Be a good citizen.
- No one leaves until my room is clean.
- I dismiss you, not the bell!

#### **Content Covered**

Reading Comprehension, Fluency, and Analysis:

- Poetry
- Narrative Poetry (*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse)
- Short Fiction and Flash Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Novel (*The Hobbit* by J.R. Tolkien and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton)
- Drama (*The Monsters are Due on Maple Street* by Rod Sterling and *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare)
- Informational Texts
- Persuasive Texts and Media Interpretation
- Accelerated Reader

Critical Thinking:

- Formulating Connections Across Literary Texts (Open-Ended Response)
- Research and Synthesis (Gathering information from several sources and then processing that information into thesis statements)
- Inferencing (Drawing conclusions based on evidentiary support or reading beyond the black and white)

### Writing:

- Personal Narrative Writing
- Expository Writing
- Grammar and Usage Practice within the context of one's own writing and *Texas Write Source*

### Written and Oral Communication:

- Vocabulary (Sadlier-Oxford)
- STAAR Vocabulary (Content Vocabulary)
- *Texas Write Source*

### AR (Accelerated Reader)

- You will have 15 AR points due towards the end of every 9 weeks.
- I will assign a due date for AR the first week of every 9 weeks that will be posted on the Wiki space. Points will be due at exactly 3:30 on the day they are due with no exceptions. Being absent is NOT an excuse for a grade you have known about all 9 weeks and will NOT be accepted as one.
- Not doing AR will affect your eligibility to participate in incentives.
- AR is a MAJOR GRADE
- AR may NOT be made up in ZAP
- Cheating on AR will result in an automatic ZERO for all parties concerned. This includes other books you may or may not have read within the same 9 weeks. ZERO!

### Homework

You WILL have homework in my class. Parents: Homework, along with all other assignments, is posted on the Wiki space, so you can always know if your child has homework.

#### **Occasional Homework:**

Some weeks you may have it 2-3 times; others you might not have any. Most homework assignments will be daily grades (mini-essays, grammar practice, etc.); however, some homework assignments may concern a major grade such as a prewriting activity or completing an essay you didn't finish in class).

Occasional homework is due the day after it is assigned.

#### **Ongoing Homework:**

Ongoing homework is homework that you always have with recurring due dates:

**-Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workbook** (Usually due every other Thursday before the test) It should also be noted that this workbook is the one thing that I do not accept late- see late work policy.

**-Studying for Sadlier -Oxford Vocabulary Tests** (Tests are usually every other Wednesday and require studying to pass. You should be able to use the vocabulary within the context of your own speech to do well on these tests. Merely knowing the definitions will NOT help you. You will also need to know how to spell the words with their varying suffixes.)

**-Reading and taking test for AR-** (Points are normally due two Thursdays before the end of the 9 weeks)

I will post exact due dates for ongoing homework on my Wiki space.

### Late Work

#### **Daily Grades and Major Grades that aren't Tests:**

1 day late= -15

2 days late = -30

3 days late = assignment stays a zero until it is made up in ZAP

#### **Exception:**

Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workbooks are DUE on the day and at the assigned time they are DUE. They are automatically ZAPPED when they are not handed in exactly when I ask for them. I'm not trying to be mean, but this policy is to defer cheating as much as possible.

### **Tests:**

-10 points per week that you neglect to come in for tutorials to make up the test

### **ZAP Policy**

You may go to ZAP on the given Saturdays to make up any and all DAILY GRADE ZEROS that you have in my class for the current 9 weeks.

You may only make up to a 70 on work that is COMPLETED correctly in ZAP. Work MUST be turned in to the ZAP teacher to be considered for grading by me.

### **Extra Credit**

I only offer ONE form of extra credit once every nine weeks. I will post the extra credit assignment on the Extra Credit page on my Wiki at least 3 weeks before the end of the nine weeks.

- Extra Credit is a HOME assignment, not to use up class time.
- Each Extra Credit opportunity will have a designated amount of points that it is worth. Not all projects are equal. The student may earn UP TO the total number of points the project is worth.
- Late projects will NOT be considered.
- Extra Credit points will go on top of Major Grades that are not a zero.
- Extra Credit points **WILL NOT ever go on top of a ZERO!** A Zero is a ZERO.

### **Restroom**

- Ask me
- As long as I am not lecturing and you have been on task, I will most likely say YES.
- However, I only allow one student out of the classroom at a time. So, if you see the RR pass gone, you may not go at that time.
- It is possible to lose RR privileges:
  - Being on your cell phone during class time
  - Being gone way too long without a pass from the nurse
  - Finding out you were doing something else while out
  - Failing my class due to inattentiveness or excessive absences
  - Being regularly off task in my class, which leads to failing my class
  - Having a record of being truant or just simply having a record
  - Coming back with evidence from the vending machines

### **Absences**

- When you are absent go to the following Wiki website to get your assignments. I will not discuss make-up work during class. If you do not have Internet access at home, you can download my assignments from my Wiki while you are on the school Wi-Fi; Otherwise, I will expect to see you in tutorials the day after you have been absent to see me and use my student computer.  
**[www.hydeenglish7.wikispaces.com/home](http://www.hydeenglish7.wikispaces.com/home)**
- This is your job, not mine. I will not ever hunt you down with make-up work.
- If you missed one day, your make-up work will be due one day after you get back. Missed 2 days, then 2 days after you get back. Place all make-up work in the "IN" box on my desk or you can email it to me a [chyde@hjsd.net](mailto:chyde@hjsd.net). It is optimal for you to get your work from the Wiki space and have it done BEFORE returning to class. Our district policy does allow you one day for each day missed to return work; however, you might be sitting in class with gaps since each day builds on the previous day. If possible, please have yourself up to date when returning to class.

Please post on your refrigerator.

## Mrs. Hyde's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELAR

When your child is absent, in ISS, or AEP, they are to go to the following website to get their assignments:

<http://hydeenglish7.wikispaces.com/home>

You can also view current and upcoming assignments, test dates, the syllabus, and homework for your child by accessing the website yourself. You do not need to sign in to view or print information from the Wiki space and neither does your child. I do not discuss make-up work during class time. If your child was absent and he or she does not have Internet access, please have them to school in time for tutorials the following day. If a student is aware they will be absent ahead of time, they can download the assignments from my Wiki space to their iPad while they are on the campus Wi-Fi before they are out. It is optimal for your child to get their work from the Wiki space and have it done BEFORE returning to class. Our district policy does allow them one day for each day missed to return work; however, your child might be sitting in class with gaps since each day builds on the previous day. If possible, please have them up to date when returning to class.

If you have any questions or concerns at anytime throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

[chyde@hjisd.net](mailto:chyde@hjisd.net)

## Supplies Needed for Mrs. Hyde's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELAR

These items are not in addition to the school supply list available on the Henderson Middle School Website. This list tells you what items from that list are specifically for ELAR and what to do with them.

- **1 wide-ruled composition notebook** (Put your name on it and give it to me)
- **10 pack of markers** (give to me)
- **4 pack of Expo markers** (give to me)
- **1 pocket folder with brads** (Put your name on it and give it to me)
  
- **1 sturdy zippered pencil pouch or pencil box** (Put your name on it and give it to me with the following supplies zipped up inside of it. Be sure to write your child's name with a Sharpie on each of the following pieces before putting them in the pencil pouch:
  - - **Multiple colors of pens**
    - 2 should be red
    - others should be dark
  - - **Several pencils**
  - - **Small pencil sharpener**
  - - **3-4 multiple colors of highlighters**
  - - **1 big eraser**
  - - **12 map pencils**

The pencil pouch/box and its contents will be kept in my classroom for the use of your child only.

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### Get Up to 3 Warm-up Passes!

+1 For returning your Syllabus and Wiki space Receipt form by 8/27.

+1 For having ALL of the school supplies for my class by 8/27.

+1 For getting mom or dad to purchase ONE of the following helpful classroom items (Only get ONE as I'm only going to give you ONE Warm-up Pass for the ONE item you bring. Extra supplies are always appreciated, but I can't give you too many Warm-up Passes as Warm-ups are part of the learning experience):

- Ream of colored computer paper
- Ream of colored card-stock paper
- 1 Package of stick-able Velcro
- Clear box tape

Syllabus and Wiki space Receipt  
(Return by 8/27 for a free Warm-up Pass!)

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has access to the following in our home:  
Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Computer (PC)
- ☐ Computer (Mac)
- ☐ Printer
- ☐ Cell phone with Internet capabilities
- ☐ Internet through a directly connected Ethernet cord to our home computer
- ☐ Wi-Fi
- ☐ Internet through a cell phone hot spot
- ☐ Internet through a Mi-Fi
- ☐ We do not have access to any of the above in our home.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/ guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read the attached syllabus and received the Wiki space address to stick on my refrigerator along  
with Mrs. Hyde's email address. I have also received the school supply list for Mrs. Hyde's class. The best  
way Mrs. Hyde can reach me is by:

☐ Emailing me at \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Calling me at \_\_\_\_\_, between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.